

**From:** Don Tilleman  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/16/01 9:58am  
**Subject:** Settlement Comments

To Whom It May Concern,

After carefully reading the proposed Microsoft settlement, it appears to me that you have caved into Microsoft. NOTHING in the agreement will rectify past abuses and any changes that Microsoft would have to make apply only to future releases.

It is like you have said, OK you guys were bad, but boys will be boys, play nicer in the future.

This settlement must address the flagrant violations of previous court orders and slap a substantial financial penalty on Microsoft. It also should help to create a level playing field for current players. By allowing Microsoft to say what they can and cannot release is similar to allowing a hungry wolf to share a cage with several sheep and admonishing it to not eat them, it just is not going to happen in this lifetime.

I realize that you have a political stake in this, after all your boss and his political party accepted millions of dollars in campaign contributions in the 2000 elections and you cannot bite the hand that feeds you, but as an IS professional it saddens me to see consumer protection reduced to political expediency.

The settlement should include major financial penalties, forcing Microsoft to sell a bare bones Operating System, stripping the .NET products out of the current OS, and the establishment of a committee that consists of representatives from the Justice Dept, Consumer Watchdog Groups, IS professionals and Microsoft that reviews and releases code to Microsoft competitors. Microsoft would not have veto power over any release. You are dealing with a monopoly power here that took steps to insure that its competitors would not be around at this point to dictate the terms of this settlement. There is precedent here, look at the IBM and AT&T decisions of the 1970's. Both of those settlements actually helped to create wealth and empowered consumers to make choices.

I am glad that several states chose not to cave into the whim of an elected official and continue to press for real and substantive gains for the consumer against a monopoly that has abused its power time and time again.

--

Don Tilleman  
Pinetree Peripherals Inc  
(303) 772-3915  
dtilleman@pine1nc.com  
<http://www.pine1nc.com>